

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
U.S. Department of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable Steve Feinberg
Deputy Secretary of War
U.S. Department of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable Russell T. Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Hegseth, Deputy Secretary Feinberg, and Director Vought:

We write in support of the Trump Administration's ongoing efforts to restore America's "Arsenal of Freedom" and to highlight Wisconsin's longstanding contributions to the nation's tactical wheeled vehicle industrial base.

As the Department of War (DoW) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) evaluate major defense acquisition programs, we encourage continued emphasis on contractor accountability, competition, and the timely delivery of capabilities essential to Warfighter readiness. These principles align with the Administration's "Arsenal of Freedom" objective of restoring resilient defense production through a strong, competitive industrial base with sufficient surge capacity to meet national security demands. We agree that when a critical defense program is materially behind schedule, DoW should apply objective performance measures, enforce delivery commitments, take timely corrective action when a contractor fails to perform, and preserve alternative production capacity sufficient to ensure uninterrupted delivery of critical capabilities.

We are particularly concerned by ongoing production challenges affecting the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) A2 program, which remains a critical capability for the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). Continued delays risk widening an already significant tactical vehicle readiness gap while limiting the USMC's ability to field the capabilities needed to support expeditionary operations. These challenges have been well documented and have drawn Congressional attention. During consideration of the Fiscal Year 2027 Defense Appropriations Act, the House Appropriations Committee report, as introduced, noted that the JLTV A2 program was "more than 20 months behind schedule, with approximately 2,000 vehicles in arrears," raising significant concerns regarding the current contractor's ability to satisfy operational requirements.

In response to these challenges, the USMC issued a Request for Information (RFI) in May seeking commercially available, non-developmental platforms that could be rapidly fielded to meet its operational needs. We view this RFI as an important step toward advancing the Administration's Arsenal of Freedom

objectives – preserving competitive production capacity, strengthening supply chain resilience, and ensuring the DoW retains qualified, alternative production capacity should performance challenges persist.

As Congress completes the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act and Defense Appropriations Act, we urge the Administration to support final language and funding that supports a limited, competitive, fixed-price and performance-based bridge option that maintains qualified alternative production capacity for a mature non-developmental JLTV and trailer capability if the USMC determines that such an acquisition is necessary to protect its fielding schedule. We further encourage DoW to establish objective decision points based on production-standard vehicle acceptance, monthly delivery performance, arrearage reduction, testing progress, and effects on USMC fielding timelines.

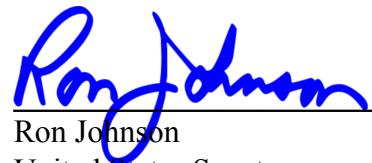
Wisconsin has long served as a cornerstone of America's tactical wheeled vehicle industrial base. Our state's skilled manufacturing workforce and defense suppliers have consistently demonstrated their ability to produce world-class military vehicles in support of U.S. and allied forces. Today, Wisconsin continues to support the JLTV program through ongoing production, sustainment, and critical supplier capabilities that help keep the existing fleet mission ready. Wisconsin stands ready to help meet enduring Marine Corps requirements, expand production capacity, produce vehicles highly common within the USMC vehicle fleet, and strengthen the industrial base supporting tactical wheeled vehicle production.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to ensuring our armed forces receive the capabilities they need while promoting a resilient, competitive, and accountable defense industrial base.

Sincerely,



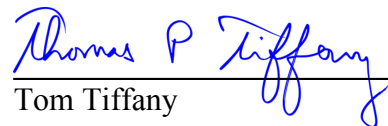
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



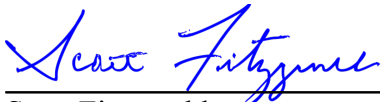
Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



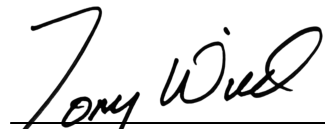
Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Tony Wied
Member of Congress